

MAY 02 2007

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**TO: MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF – PATENTS – United States Patent and Trademark Office**

**EXAMINER – ELIZABETH M. COLE**

Fax No. 571-273-8300

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**FROM: Connie Baker (Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate)**

Fax No. 513-634-3612

Phone No. 513-634-0567

Application No.: 10/782,029

Inventor(s): Michael Scott Prodoehl, et al.

Filed: February 19, 2004

Docket No.: 9548

Confirmation No.: 5615

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET AND****CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8**

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- 1) Appeal Brief (12 pages)
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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/782,029  
Applicant(s) : Michael Scott Prodoehl et al.  
Filed : February 19, 2004  
Title : FIBROUS STRUCTURES WITH IMPROVED  
: SOFTNESS  
TC/A.U. : 1771  
Examiner : Elizabeth M. Cole  
Conf. No. : 5615  
Docket No. : 9548  
Customer No. : 27752

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir,

This Brief is filed pursuant to the appeal from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office decision of the Final Office Action mailed October 30, 2006. A Notice of Appeal, accompanied by a Petition and Fee for an Extension of Time for Two (2) Months, was filed on March 7, 2007.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party of interest is The Procter & Gamble Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no known related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 3, 5, 7-9, 15, 18, 20, 23-24 and 31 are cancelled.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 10-14, 16-17, 19, 21-22 and 25-30 are rejected.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 10-14, 16-17, 19, 21-22 and 25-30 are appealed.

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A complete copy of the appealed claims is set forth in the Claims Appendix attached herein.

#### STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A Reply After Final was filed on January 24, 2007. However, the Examiner did not conclude that the application was in condition for allowance per the Examiner's Advisory Action dated February 22, 2007.

#### SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention relates to single- or multi-ply sanitary tissue products (Page 2, lines 29-31) having a basis weight of from about 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> to about 120 g/m<sup>2</sup> (Page 8, lines 4-6), wherein the sanitary tissue product (Page 2, lines 29-31) comprises a differential density fibrous structure (Page 2, lines 10-19 and lines 29-31; page 10, lines 5-11) comprising low fiber density pillow regions (Page 8, lines 14-18) and high fiber density knuckle regions (Page 8, lines 14-18) and a structural aspect ratio (Page 4, lines 30-34; page 10, line 31 to page 11, line 19; Figs. 2A and 2B) of greater than 1.5 (Page 2, lines 10-19), wherein the fibrous structure (Page 2, lines 10-19 and lines 29-31) exhibits a modulus (Page 5, lines 12-14) to tensile strength (Page 5, lines 1-11) ratio (Page 2, lines 10-19) as defined below:

$$\frac{ARD_{90M}}{ARD_{90T}} < 15$$

wherein  $ARD_{90M}$  (Page 2, lines 10-19) is the modulus (Page 5, lines 12-14) measured perpendicular to the direction the structural aspect ratio (Page 4, lines 30-34; page 10, line 31 to page 11, line 19; Figs. 2A and 2B) is measured; and  $ARD_{90T}$  (Page 2, lines 10-19) is the tensile strength (Page 5, lines 1-11) measured perpendicular to the direction the structural aspect ratio (Page 4, lines 30-34; page 10, line 31 to page 11, line 19; Figs. 2A and 2B) is measured.

The present invention also relates to a single- or multi-ply sanitary tissue product (Page 2, lines 29-31) having a basis weight of from about 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> to about 120 g/m<sup>2</sup> (Page 8, lines 4-6), wherein the sanitary tissue product (Page 2, lines 29-31) comprises a differential density fibrous structure (Page 2, lines 20-28 and lines 29-31; page 10, lines

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5-11) comprising low fiber density pillow regions (Page 8, lines 14-18) and high fiber density knuckle regions (Page 8, lines 14-18) and a maximum stretch (Page 2, lines 20-28) of less than about 15% wherein the differential density fibrous structure (Page 2, lines 20-28) exhibits a modulus (Page 5, lines 12-14) to tensile strength (Page 5, lines 1-11) ratio (Page 2, lines 20-28) as defined below:

$$\frac{\text{MSD M}}{\text{MSD T}} < 15$$

wherein MSD M (Page 2, lines 20-28) is the modulus (Page 5, lines 12-14) measured in the direction of the maximum stretch (Page 5, lines 15-25); and MSD T (Page 2, lines 20-28) is the tensile strength (Page 5, lines 1-11) measured in the direction of the maximum stretch (Page 5, lines 15-25).

#### GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 11-12, 16-17, 19, 21-22, 25-27 and 30 (Examiner apparently missed Claim 10 in this list) stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,637,859 to Trokhan

- i. Claims 1-2, 10-12
- ii. Claims 4, 6
- iii. Claims 16-17, 25-27, 30
- iv. Claims 19, 21
- v. Claim 22

Claims 13-14 and 28-29 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,637,859 to Trokhan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,328,850 to Phan et al.

- i. Claims 13-14
- ii. Claims 28-29

#### ARGUMENTS

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,637,859 to Trokhan

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 10-12, 16-17, 19, 21-22, 25-27 and 30 stand finally rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the

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alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over U.S. Patent No. 4,637,859 to Trokhan ("Trokhan"). The Examiner asserts that Trokhan discloses a tissue product having a basis weight of 9-95 gsm, wherein the tissue comprises an undulating surface of low density pillow regions and high density knuckle regions. The Examiner states that Trokhan teaches a preferred structure of a deflection member used to form its tissue product when used with a particular type of fiber (NSK). The Examiner asserts that Trokhan teaches that its deflection member has openings that exhibit dimensions that can be varied proportionally when used with pulp furnishes other than NSK.

i. Claims 1-2, 10-12

The Examiner asserts that Trokhan's openings within its deflection member, which exhibit preferred dimensions for use with NSK fibers, can be varied proportionally for other fiber types thus resulting in Trokhan's tissue product having a structural aspect ratio that is greater than 1.5.

Appellant appreciates that Trokhan teaches that its dimensions can be varied proportionally when used with other furnishes. Trokhan, Col. 8, lines 28-36. However, Appellant respectfully submits that the Examiner's interpretation of "proportionally" within respect to the claimed aspect ratio is faulty. Appellant respectfully submits that Trokhan teaches in its Fig. 10 that its tissue products exhibit a structural aspect ratio of 1.28, which is determined by the formula: dimension f/dimension e. If the dimension f and the dimension e are varied proportionally, the structural aspect ratio would remain 1.28 since dimension f would have to change by the same amount as dimension e changes to meet the requirement of "varied proportionally." In fact, a definition of "proportionally" means having the same or a constant ratio. Accordingly, Applicants agree that Trokhan teaches that its dimensions can change, but they change proportionally, which would result in the structural aspect ratio of the tissue product being the same.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Trokhan fails to teach each and every element of Claim 1 because Trokhan fails to teach a tissue product that exhibits a structural aspect ratio of greater than 1.5. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the teachings of Trokhan.

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Further, Applicants submit that Claims 2 and 10-12, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the teachings of Trokhan for the same reasons that Claim 1 is not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the teachings of Trokhan.

ii. Claims 4, 6

Appellant respectfully submits that Trokhan fails to teach each and every element of Claims 4 and 6, which both depend from Claim 1, because Trokhan fails to teach a tissue product that exhibits a structural aspect ratio of greater than 1.5. As discussed above, Appellant submits that Trokhan fails to teach that its tissue product exhibits a structural aspect ratio of greater than 1.5. Therefore, Appellant submits that Trokhan fails to teach that its tissue product exhibits a structural aspect ratio of greater than about 2. Accordingly, Appellant submits that Claims 4 and 6, which both depend from Claim 1, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the teachings of Trokhan.

iii. Claims 16-17, 25-27, 30

The Examiner recognizes that Trokhan fails to disclose that its tissue products exhibit a maximum stretch of less than about 15%. However, the Examiner asserts that Trokhan's tissue products appear to be the same structure as the claimed sanitary tissue product of Claim 16 and thus, would exhibit a maximum stretch of less than about 15%.

Appellant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the maximum stretch exhibited by Trokhan's tissue products. Appellant respectfully submits that Trokhan fails to teach that its tissue products exhibit maximum stretch of less than 15%. Applicants submit that Trokhan teaches that its tissue products exhibit a maximum stretch of greater than 15%; namely, 30%, 34%, 35%, 32%. Trokhan, Col. 22, Table II. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 16 is not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Trokhan. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 17, 25-27 and 30, which ultimately depend from Claim 16, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Trokhan for the same reasons that Claim 16 is not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Trokhan.

iv. Claims 19, 21

Appellant respectfully submits that Trokhan fails to teach each and every element of Claims 19 and 21, which both depend from Claim 16, because Trokhan fails to teach a tissue product that exhibits a maximum stretch of less than about 12.5%. As discussed

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above, Appellant submits that Trokhan fails to teach that its tissue product exhibits a maximum stretch of less than about 15%. Therefore, Appellant submits that Trokhan fails to teach that its tissue product exhibits a maximum stretch of less than about 12.5%. Accordingly, Appellant submits that Claims 19 and 21, which both depend from Claim 16, are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the teachings of Trokhan.

v. Claim 22

Appellant respectfully submits that Trokhan fails to teach each and every element of Claim 22, which depends from Claim 16, because Trokhan fails to teach a tissue product that exhibits a maximum stretch of less than about 10%. As discussed above, Appellant submits that Trokhan fails to teach that its tissue product exhibits a maximum stretch of less than about 15%. Therefore, Appellant submits that Trokhan fails to teach that its tissue product exhibits a maximum stretch of less than about 10%. Accordingly, Appellant submits that Claim 22, which depends from Claim 16, is not anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the teachings of Trokhan.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,637,859 to Trokhan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,328,850 to Phan et al.

Claims 13-14 and 28-29 stand finally rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over U.S. Patent No. 4,637,859 to Trokhan ("Trokhan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,328,850 to Phan et al. ("Phan"). The Examiner recognizes that Trokhan fails to disclose a tissue having a layer containing fibers having an average fiber length of greater than 1.5 mm, which is positioned between two layers containing fibers having an average fiber length of less than 1.5 mm. The Examiner asserts that Phan discloses a multi-layered paper product wherein an inner layer may comprise relatively long fibers having a length of 2.5 mm or greater which is sandwiched by outer layers comprising fibers having a length of less than 1.5 mm. Accordingly, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have formed the paper sheet of Trokhan so that it had fibrous layers having fiber lengths taught by Phan, motivated by the expectation that this would produce a tissue having excellent softness, strength and bulk.

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i. Claims 13-14

Appellant respectfully submits that Trokhan and Phan fail to teach each and every element of Claims 13 and 14, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, because Trokhan and Phan fail to teach a tissue product that exhibits a structural aspect ratio of greater than 1.5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 13 and 14 are not rendered obvious over Trokhan in view of Phan. MPEP 2143.03.

ii. Claims 28-29

Appellant respectfully submits that Trokhan and Phan fail to teach each and every element of Claims 28 and 29, which ultimately depend from Claim 16, because Trokhan and Phan fail to teach a tissue product that exhibits a maximum stretch of less than about 15%. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 28 and 29 are not rendered obvious over Trokhan in view of Phan. MPEP 2143.03.

SUMMARY

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 10-14, 16-17, 19, 21-22 and 25-30 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY



Signature

C. Brant Cook

Registration No. 39,151

(513) 634-1533

Date: May 2, 2007  
Customer No. 27752



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## CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claim 1 A single- or multi-ply sanitary tissue product having a basis weight of from about 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> to about 120 g/m<sup>2</sup>, wherein the sanitary tissue product comprises a differential density fibrous structure comprising low fiber density pillow regions and high fiber density knuckle regions and a structural aspect ratio of greater than 1.5 wherein the fibrous structure exhibits a modulus to tensile strength ratio as defined below:

$$\frac{ARD_{90M}}{ARD_{90T}} < 15$$

wherein  $ARD_{90M}$  is the modulus measured perpendicular to the direction the structural aspect ratio is measured; and  $ARD_{90T}$  is the tensile strength measured perpendicular to the direction the structural aspect ratio is measured.

Claim 2 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 1 wherein the modulus to tensile strength ratio is less than about 10.

Claim 4 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 1 wherein the structural aspect ratio is greater than about 2.

Claim 6 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 1 wherein the modulus to tensile strength ratio is less than about 10 and the structural aspect ratio is greater than about 2.

Claim 10 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 1 wherein the sanitary tissue product further comprises an ingredient selected from the group consisting of temporary wet strength resins, softening agents and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 1 wherein the sanitary tissue product comprises an undulatory surface.

Claim 12 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 1 wherein the differential density fibrous structure comprises two or more layers of fibers.

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Claim 13 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 12 wherein at least one of the two or more layers has an average fiber length, L, of greater than or equal to 1.5 mm and at least one of the other layers has an average fiber length, L, of less than 1.5 mm.

Claim 14 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 13 wherein the at least one of the two or more layers having an average fiber length, L, of greater than or equal to 1.5 mm is positioned between two layers having an average fiber length, L, of less than 1.5 mm.

Claim 16 A single- or multi-ply sanitary tissue product having a basis weight of from about 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> to about 120 g/m<sup>2</sup>, wherein the sanitary tissue product comprises a differential density fibrous structure having an average fiber length, L, of less than 2 mm, the fibrous structure comprising low fiber density pillow regions and high fiber density knuckle regions and a maximum stretch of less than about 15% wherein the differential density fibrous structure exhibits a modulus to tensile strength ratio as defined below:

$$\frac{\text{MSD M}}{\text{MSD T}} < 15$$

wherein MSD M is the modulus measured in the direction of the maximum stretch; and MSD T is the tensile strength measured in the direction of the maximum stretch.

Claim 17 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 16 wherein the modulus to tensile strength ratio is less than about 10.

Claim 19 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 16 wherein the maximum stretch is less than about 12.5%.

Claim 21 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 16 wherein the modulus to tensile strength ratio is less than about 10 and the maximum stretch is less than about 12.5%.

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Claim 22 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 16 wherein the modulus to tensile strength ratio is less than about 10 and the maximum stretch is less than about 10%.

Claim 25 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 16 wherein the sanitary tissue product further comprises an ingredient selected from the group consisting of temporary wet strength resins, softening agents and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 16 wherein the sanitary tissue product comprises an undulatory surface.

Claim 27 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 16 wherein the differential density fibrous structure comprises two or more layers of fibers.

Claim 28 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 27 wherein at least one of the two or more layers has an average fiber length, L, of greater than or equal to 1.5 mm and at least one of the other layers has an average fiber length, L, of less than 1.5 mm.

Claim 29 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 28 wherein the at least one of the two or more layers having an average fiber length, L, of greater than or equal to 1.5 mm is positioned between two layers having an average fiber length, L, of less than 1.5 mm.

Claim 30 The sanitary tissue product according to Claim 16 wherein the average fiber length, L, is less than about 1.8 mm.

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## EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

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## RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>FEE TRANSMITTAL</b> <b>for FY 2007</b> Patent fees are subject to annual revision. Effective December 8, 2004	<b>Complete if Known</b>	
	Application Number	10/782,029
	Confirmation Number	5615
	Filing Date	February 19, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Michael Scott Prodoehl
	Examiner Name	Elizabeth M. Cole
	Art Unit	1771
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$500)</b>	Docket No.	9548

<b>METHOD OF PAYMENT</b> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees submitted on this form, credit any over payments, and charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application to: Deposit Account Number: 16-2480 Deposit Account Name: The Procter & Gamble Company	<b>FEE CALCULATION (continued)</b> <b>5. ADDITIONAL FEES</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Extension for reply within 1<sup>st</sup> month</td> <td>(\$120) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extension for reply within 2<sup>nd</sup> month</td> <td>(\$450) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extension for reply within 3<sup>rd</sup> month</td> <td>(\$1,020) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extension for reply within 4<sup>th</sup> month</td> <td>(\$1,590) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extension for reply within 5<sup>th</sup> month</td> <td>(\$2,160) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Information Disclosure Statement fee</td> <td>(\$180) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>37 CFR 1.16(f) Late Oath/Declaration (nonprovisional)</td> <td>(\$130) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>37 CFR 1.17 (q) Surcharge - Late provisional filing fee or cover sheet</td> <td>(\$50) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-English specification</td> <td>(\$130) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Notice of Appeal</td> <td>(\$500) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td> <td>(\$500) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Request for oral hearing</td> <td>(\$1,000) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acceptance of unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, 120, 121, or 365 (a) or (c)</td> <td>(\$1,370) <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other:</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Fee Description	Fee Paid	Extension for reply within 1 <sup>st</sup> month	(\$120) <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension for reply within 2 <sup>nd</sup> month	(\$450) <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension for reply within 3 <sup>rd</sup> month	(\$1,020) <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension for reply within 4 <sup>th</sup> month	(\$1,590) <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension for reply within 5 <sup>th</sup> month	(\$2,160) <input type="checkbox"/>	Information Disclosure Statement fee	(\$180) <input type="checkbox"/>	37 CFR 1.16(f) Late Oath/Declaration (nonprovisional)	(\$130) <input type="checkbox"/>	37 CFR 1.17 (q) Surcharge - Late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	(\$50) <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-English specification	(\$130) <input type="checkbox"/>	Notice of Appeal	(\$500) <input type="checkbox"/>	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	(\$500) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for oral hearing	(\$1,000) <input type="checkbox"/>	Acceptance of unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, 120, 121, or 365 (a) or (c)	(\$1,370) <input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>						
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<b>3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE:</b> Sheets of Spec and Drawings <input type="checkbox"/> (\$250 for each 50 sheets in excess of 100, except for sequence and program listings) SUBTOTAL (2)+(3) (\$) <input type="checkbox"/>																																					
<b>4. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE:</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Extra Claims</th> <th>Fee from Below</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Claims <input type="checkbox"/> - 20** = <input type="checkbox"/> x</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> =</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent Claims <input type="checkbox"/> - 3** = <input type="checkbox"/> x</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> =</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multiple Dependent claims:</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> =</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> ** or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see below <b>Fee Description</b> Claims in excess of 20 (\$50 per claim) Independent claims in excess of 3 (\$200 per claim) Multiple dependent claim, if not paid (\$360) **Reissue: each independent claim over 3 and more than in the original patent (\$200 per claim) **Reissue claims: each claim over 20 and more than original patent (\$50 per claim) SUBTOTAL (4) (\$) <input type="checkbox"/>	Extra Claims	Fee from Below	Fee Paid	Total Claims <input type="checkbox"/> - 20** = <input type="checkbox"/> x	<input type="checkbox"/> =	<input type="checkbox"/>	Independent Claims <input type="checkbox"/> - 3** = <input type="checkbox"/> x	<input type="checkbox"/> =	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Dependent claims:	<input type="checkbox"/> =	<input type="checkbox"/>																									
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	<b>SUBTOTAL(5) (\$) [500]</b>																																				

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>		<b>Complete (if applicable)</b>	
Name (Print/Type)	C. Brant Cook	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	39,151
Signature	<i>C. Brant Cook</i>	Telephone	(513) 634-1533
		Date	May 2, 2007

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.